

Tongass National Forest Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report Fiscal Year 1997

Introduction

This is the fifth annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report for the Tongass National Forest. As part of a National Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy, every National Forest began issuing annual monitoring and evaluation reports in 1993. The purpose of these reports is to provide the public with information about how well the management direction of the Forest is being carried out and for measuring the accomplishments of anticipated outputs, activities, and effects.

Monitoring provides the public and the Forest Service with important information on the progress and results of implementing the Forest Plan. Monitoring and evaluation provide an important feedback mechanism for helping to keep the Forest Plan dynamic and responsive to necessary changes.

The monitoring objectives of the Forest Plan are to determine if:

1. The management situation described in the Plan has changed.
2. Anticipated output levels are being achieved.
3. Environmental effects are as anticipated.
4. Scheduled activities are being implemented.
5. Standards and guidelines are being implemented.
6. The resource information used to project outputs and effects was accurate.

The 1997 Monitoring and Evaluation Report represents the last monitoring and evaluation report for activities conducted under the 1979 Tongass Land Management Plan. Subsequent Reports will reflect the Monitoring Plan contained in the Revised Forest Plan. Some items have been deleted from previous monitoring reports for FY'97 because they are not included in the Forest Plan Revision Monitoring Plan. Some of the monitoring items from the Forest Plan Revision Monitoring Plan are not included in this report because we have collected no data or we did not have a developed protocol for collecting the data in FY 1997. The Monitoring Plan Cross Reference Table included at the end of this section shows a correlation between the monitoring items and the illustrates changes in this monitoring and evaluation report.

This report has two parts: Chapter 1 includes the Forest Plan Monitoring Items; Chapter 2 provides information on activities to implement additional monitoring requirements for specific projects.

The following information is based largely on monitoring reports prepared by each Administrative Area. These reports are available from the Administrative Areas. All the information is for Fiscal Year 1997 (October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997) unless otherwise noted.

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